

INFORMATION REPORT

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SUBJECT Methods Used by Chinese Communists in
Taking Over Villages

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1. When the Chinese Communists first take over a village, they attempt to win over the friendly elements of the population before they put any strong controls into effect. Intellectuals and village chiefs are summoned to conferences which last about seven days. At these conferences, Communists lecture on the differences between the old and new meanings of the San Min Chu I.
2. The Communists then send "armed activity bands" (武裝工作队) into the village to suppress the reactionary elements and organize the "progressive" elements. The Chinese Communists become acquainted with the village situation through nightly meetings with these "progressive" elements, who gradually replace the old chiefs.
3. The Communists point out that the poverty in the village is caused by the landed gentry and call upon the "progressive" elements to clear up the situation. Generally a peasants' association is formed which is to aid in the prosecution of the landed gentry. Those to be accused are predetermined and a rehearsal of the actual accusation meeting is held. The land gentry are then brought before a presidium elected from among the new authorities. Members of the peasants' association call out the accusations which they have rehearsed. If the landlord on trial cannot vindicate himself, he is beaten until he is ready to make a full confession; after the confession, the presidium passes a sentence on him, which may range from a heavy fine to death.
4. The Communists try to alleviate the land problem in the village through these accusation meetings. Often the sentence requires the landlord to make refunds in money, produce, or land to his former tenants. These refunds are made retroactive so that, in many cases, the farmer can only pay the debt off by working on the land for his former tenants.
5. Various persons accused in these meetings include intellectuals and wealthy farmers, in villages which have no landed gentry. Persons who complain about the Communist government or voice a desire to see the return of the Nationalists are branded as enemy agents.

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6. The Chinese Communists maintain a constant program of propaganda directed toward the peasants' associations. This propaganda attempts to point out the impossibility of a Nationalist return and to build up the hatred of the people for the "running dogs of American imperialism" such as many teachers, former chiefs of the Nationalist pao chia system, and dependents of Nationalist civil servants who have survived the Communist conquest.

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